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WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A STUDY SPONSORED BY THE FUND FOR PEACE AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION CONCLUDED SUNDAY THAT THE CIA SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED FROM REQUIREMENTS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

THE STUDY FOCUSED ON PROPOSALS PENDING IN CONGRESS THAT WOULD FREE THE CIA FROM ANSWERING REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE FOI ACT.

THE CENTER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES -- SPONSORED BY THE ACLU FOUNDATION AND THE FUND FOR PEACE -- DID THE REPORT.

BROADENING FOI EXEMPTIONS FOR THE CIA WOULD DRASTICALLY CUT PUBLIC ACCESS TO IMPORTANT INFORMATION, THE REPORT SAID.

"THROUGH THE FOIA, THE PUBLIC HAS LEARNED MORE ABOUT THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION, MIND-DRUG EXPERIMENTS, CIA SPYING ON AMERICANS," THE REPORT SAID.

"MUCH OF THE INFORMATION WAS NOT INCLUDED IN CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE CIA AND SOME OF IT MAKES CLEAR THAT CIA OPERATIONS WERE MORE EXTENSIVE THAN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATIONS HAD INDICATED."

A MAJOR CIA OBJECTION TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IS THAT THE AGENCY'S SOURCES AND AGENTS ABROAD FEAR THEIR IDENTITIES MAY BE REVEALED, THE REPORT SAID.

BUT IT SAID THAT PERCEPTION ALSO IS BASED ON FEAR OF LEAKS, CONGRESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF OPERATIONS, PUBLICATION OF CIA MEMOIRS, CIVIL LAWSUITS, "CIA ABANDONMENT OF AGENTS AND ALLIES IN VIETNAM AND ELSEWHERE AND OTHER FACTORS HAVING NOTHING TO DO WITH FOIA."

THE CIA ALSO HAS COMPLAINED ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN OF COMPLYING WITH FOIA REQUESTS. HOWEVER, THE REPORT SAID, IN 1977 THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, TREASURY AND NSA SPENT FIVE TIMES MORE THAN THE CIA PROCESSING FOIA REQUESTS.

THE REPORT SAID THE CIA HAS ADMITTED THE PROPOSED EXEMPTIONS WOULD CUT ITS FOIA AND RELATED COSTS ONLY 15 PERCENT TO 20 PERCENT.

LEGISLATION PROPOSED BY THE CIA TO SUBSTANTIALLY EXEMPT IT AND OTHER INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES FROM DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN BOTH THE SENATE AND HOUSE. AN EXEMPTION FOR THE CIA ALONE IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ACT, WHICH IS PENDING IN THE SENATE.

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